

Testifying Before the Idaho EMS Physician Commission

- Idaho has an open meeting law. All commission action is conducted in open sessions and you may attend any or all of these meetings.
- The commission chairman determines when testimony is to be scheduled for a hearing. Public testimony is permitted at most meetings, but it is important that you follow the guidelines and protocol listed below:

Before the Commission Meeting

- Check the EMSPC Agenda for topics you may wish to hear more about or to testify on.
- Plan your testimony. You will be more effective getting your message across if you have prepared your testimony in writing for distribution to commission members. You can then orally summarize your remarks to conserve time.

At the Commission Meeting

- Be on time. Find out when and where the meeting is to be held -- check agendas.
- Be sure to sign your name when you arrive and indicate whether you intend to testify. Sign-up sheets are available at all meetings.
- Wait your turn. The Chairman will announce when a particular topic is coming before the commission for discussion. Usually the commission will discuss the topic first. The Chairman may then ask for testimony from proponents and opponents and give a time allowance for the testimony. Use the podium supplied for audience testimony.
- **All testimony and all commission discussion must be addressed through the Chairman.**
- Begin your testimony by addressing the Chairman and commission members. State your name, address, and why you are there. For example: "Mr. (or Madam) Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Pat Q. Public and I'm from Emmett. I am/am not in favor of this idea because...."
- Be courteous and brief in your language and address. Stay to the time limit given by the commission Chairman. Try not to repeat testimony offered by previous witnesses. Be prepared to answer questions. Respond to the questions as best you can. You need not be embarrassed if you do not have a specific answer.
- Demonstrations, applause, or addressing commission members or other witnesses in the audience are prohibited.
- Do not be offended if commissioners come and go during a meeting. They have other commitments, including the need at times to present information in other meetings occurring simultaneously.

After You Testify

- Do not expect immediate commission action. You are welcome to stay after the discussion of your topic and listen until the end of the meeting.
- If discussion of your topic is postponed, and the Chairman does not announce a date for further consideration, check back with commission staff about future scheduling.
- Remember . . . Commissioners want to hear what you have to say. Your input is important to them and they appreciate your interest in Idaho's Emergency Medical Systems.